

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-11

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P 060308Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9876

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS KARACHI 1461

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJECT: BHUTTO AGAIN READY FOR TALKS WITH AFGHANISTAN

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO APRIL 3 OFFERED TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES BUT SAID HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE THEIR INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S AFFAIRS. REITERATING THAT PAKISTANIS FELT WARMLY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN, BHUTTO COMPARED HIS "DEMOCRATIC" WITH DAUD'S AUTHORITARIAN REGIME, WHICH WAS POSSIBLY THREATENED BY THE "WIND OF CHANGE" SWEEPING PAKISTAN. IN THE ONLY RECOGNIZABLY NEW ELEMENT IN THE PAK-AFGHAN MEDIA DIALOGUE, BHUTTO ARGUED THAT PAKISTAN'S ESTABLISHMENT HAD FREED AFGHANISTAN FROM BRITISH AND POSSIBLE HINDU DOMINATION. END SUMMARY

1. RSPEAKING TO AN ESTIMATED 1200 DELEGATES AT THE QUETTA DIVISIONAL CONVENTION OF HIS PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY ON APRIL 3, PRIME MINISTER (AND PARTY CHAIRMAN) BHUTTO RESPONDED TO A DELEGATE'S QUESTION ON AFGHANISTAN WITH AN UNSCHEDULED TWENTY-MINUTE DISCOURSE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, BHUTTO SAID ONCE MORE THAT PAKISTAN IS READY FOR TALKS WITH AFGHANIS-
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TAN AT ANY TIME. HOWEVER, AFGHAN INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S

INTERNAL AFFAIRS WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. "WE WILL NOT BEAR WITH THE WHIMS AND CAPRICES OF THE AFGHAN RULERS", BHUTTO WAS QUOTED AS TELLING HIS CHEERING PARTY WORKERS. THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO ILL-WILL BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN, WHO HE CALLED "BROTHERS".

2. BHUTTO POINTED OUT THAT IN EUROPE THERE WERE NATIONALITIES LIVING ON EITHER SIDE OF POLITICAL BOUNDARIES. THE PAKHTUNS WERE LIKEWISE FOUND ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DURAND LINE, WHICH BOUNDARY AFGHANISTAN HAD ACCEPTED BEFORE 1947. AFGHANISTAN WAS DESCRIBED AS A MULTI-NATIONAL, MULTI-LINGUISTIC STATE WHICH HAD NOT TREATED THE BALUCHIS WELL IN THE PAST. COMPARING THE TWO REGIMES, BHUTTO EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS YET NO CONSTITUTION IN AFGHANISTAN. IN PAKISTAN, "WE HAVE AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND A DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION", BHUTTO OBSERVED, HAVING MENTIONED THAT HIS PARTY AND OTHERS HELD "DEMOCRATIC" CONVENTIONS FREQUENTLY. BHUTTO ADDED THAT IN PAKISTAN, PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT THE POOR AND THE SARDARI (TRIBAL HEIRARCHY) SYSTEM, FREELY CRITICIZING THE SARDARS. THE "WIND OF CHANGE" IN PAKISTAN WHICH THIS FREEDOM OF SPEECH EXEMPLIFIED MIGHT SWEEP INTO AFGHANISTAN, BHUTTO NOTED, A POSSIBILITY WHICH HE SAID WORRIED THE KABUL RULERS.

3. IN THE ONLY RECOGNIZABLY NEW ELEMENT IN THE CONTINUING PUBLIC PAK-AFGHAN MEDIA DIALOGUE, BHUTTO ARGUED AT LENGTH THAT THE MUSLIMS OF UNDIVIDED INDIA, IN THROWING OFF HINDU AND BRITISH DOMINATION, HAD FREED AFGHANISTAN AS WELL. BHUTTO NOTED THAT BRITISH INFLUENCE IN KABUL HAD LIMITED AFGHAN OPTIONS IN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY. HAD BRITISH RULE CONTINUED, AFGHANISTAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN SUBDUED UNDER THE "FORWARD POLICY". HAD PAKISTAN NOT BEEN CREATED, UNITED INDIA MIGHT HAVE DOMINATED AFGHANISTAN, LIKE SIKKIM AND BHUTAN IN RECENT YEARS. IN THIS LIGHT, THE RATIONALE FOR AFGHANISTAN'S 1947 VOTE AGAINST PAKISTANI ENTRY INTO THE UN AND MORE RECENTLY TO SUPPORT ANOTHER COUNTRY FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT BECAME DIFFICULT TO GRASP, BHUTTO REPORTEDLY INDICATED.

MOORE

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